



## Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center Monthly Progress Report November 2015

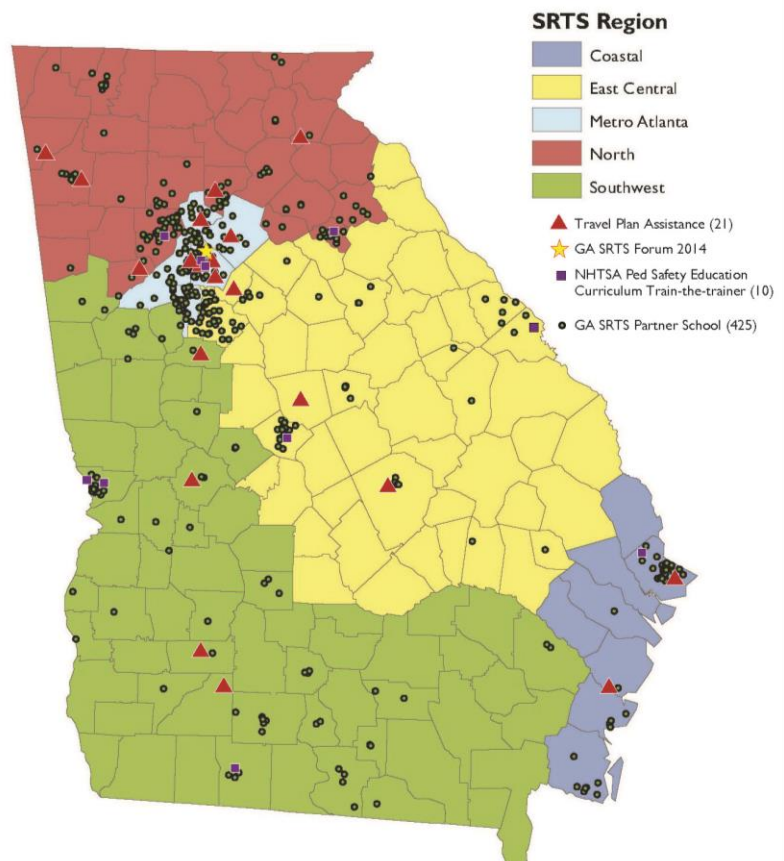
The Resource Center serves the State of Georgia by delineating outreach efforts into five geographic territories, serving 439 School Partners across the state. Additionally, the Resource Center has 290 Friends, or community stakeholder partners that support the state's mission. A map of the five outreach territories and the distribution of SRTS Partner Schools (denoted by dots), is shown on the right. The map also displays locations for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Child Pedestrian Curriculum trainings, the sites of the Forums, and sites of SRTS Travel Plans administered by the Resource Center since the project's start in 2009.

In November, The Resource Center staff met in Atlanta November 5-6 for the fourth quarter team meeting. Outreach Coordinators attended the Georgia Pedestrian Task Force meeting and presented to Katelyn DiGioia at the Georgia Department of Transportation headquarters.

Following the team meetings, members of the team traveled to Milledgeville to attend and present at the Georgia Bike Summit at Georgia College and State University. Patti Sistrunk, Elizabeth Jones, and Corey Crumbley presented about bicycle education for children.

Georgia Crossing Guard Appreciation Week was observed November 16-20. The Resource Center School had more than 50 schools participate in the event. During November, the Resource Center School Outreach Coordinators (SOCs) held 105 meetings, facilitated 11 presentations and conducted 5 Crossing Guard and NHTSA trainings.

All Partners are listed on the complete Partner list at the back of this report. [Click here](#) for more information about the Resource Center's Partnership program.



## Outreach

### Metro Atlanta Territory – Nichole Hollis, School Outreach Coordinator

Nichole serves 145 partner schools in the Metro Atlanta territory.

Nichole is happy to welcome **The Kinzei School (Fourth Ward), Toney Elementary School, Snapfinger Elementary School, Columbia Elementary School, and Chapel Hill Elementary School** as new school partners to the Resource Center! In November, schools participated in Crossing Guard Appreciation week, held Walk to School Day events, received awards through the 2015 Saris Poster Contest, and Kaiser Permanente's **Fire Up Your Feet** program.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, **Morris Brandon Elementary School** held their "Bee Happy Walk!" monthly walking event and had their school partner *West Stride* sponsor the event by providing logo themed bag tags and stickers. Over 400 students participated!

**Bethune Elementary School** held a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on November 4<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the completion of their new sidewalks and crosswalks. The Assistant Principal, staff members, students, GDOT representatives, SRTS School Champion, and SRTS State Coordinator were all present. Bethune Elementary School has a total of 800 students and over 400 students are able to walk to school. The new addition of sidewalks and crosswalks will allow more students to walk to school safely!

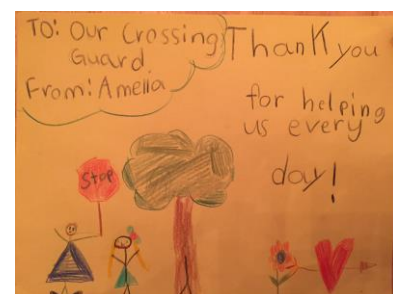


Nichole met with **The Kinzei School (Fourth Ward)** on November 17<sup>th</sup> and congratulated the school champion on their Safe Routes to School Safety-focused travel plan award. Nichole discussed an outline of the travel plan process. The Kinzei School is a new partner school and is excited to be a part of the resource center!

### Metro Atlanta Crossing Guard Appreciation Week Highlights

Over 20 schools awarded their crossing guards during Crossing Guard Appreciation week including:

- **City Schools of Decatur** held a Crossing Guard Appreciation Breakfast on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Decatur City Police Department. Decatur Active Living and Decatur City police officers were present to award the crossing guards with backpacks and certificates. Pictured on the right is a crossing guard being awarded!
- **Henderson Mill Elementary School** appreciated their crossing guard with parent and student thank you cards and a \$50 gift card. **Sagamore Hills Elementary School** students' created thank you cards and their parent teacher organization gave the crossing guard a gift card to a coffee shop. Pictured on the right is a thank you card made by the School Champion's daughter.



### **East Central Territory – Corey Crumbley, School Outreach Coordinator**

Corey currently serves 81 School Partners in the East Central Territory.

During November, Corey met with with partners in Henry County to promote **Crossing Guard Appreciation Week**. Corey utilized this event as a great opportunity to meet with his School Partners and Community Friends and establish himself as the School Outreach Coordinator. He also encouraged Partners to apply for travel plan assistance.

Corey had 20 schools participate in **Crossing Guard Appreciation Week**. Eighteen of those were School Partners that have not been active with the Resource Center lately.

#### **East Central Crossing Guard Appreciation Week Highlights:**

- **Wesley Lakes Elementary School**, located in McDonough, Georgia nominated **Coach Calvin Lewis** as their Crossing Guard for **Crossing Guard Appreciation Week**. Pictured to the right, the School Champion recognized Mr. Lewis on their school's website and rewarded Mr. Lewis with a certificate from the SRTS's website for his outstanding efforts for safety control.
- **Henry County Police Department** was also recognized for their commitment and dedication in assisting in safety control for the Henry County School System for **Crossing Guard Appreciation Week**.
- **Dutchtown Middle School**, located in Hampton, nominated Terry McFarland as their Outstanding Crossing Guard for **Crossing Guard Appreciation Week**. The School Champion recognized Mr. McFarland during the morning announcements and rewarded Mr. McFarland with a certificate from the Resource Center's website for his outstanding work in keeping children safe.



On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Corey attended meetings in McDonough with **Wesley Lakes Elementary School, Henry County Middle, East Lakes Elementary, Eagles Landing Middle, Pates Creek Elementary School, Smith-Barnes Elementary School, Stockbridge Elementary School, Woodland Elementary School, and Austin Road Elementary School**. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, Corey met with the principal and/or the School SRTS Champion at **Hickery Flat Elementary School, Flippen Elementary School, Rocky Creek Elementary, Mt. Carmel Elementary School, Dutchtown Elementary School, and Walnut Creek Elementary School**. Each school participated in **Crossing Guard Appreciation Week** and discussed SRTS plans with Corey.

In December, Corey will continue to reach out to his School Partners and Community Friends, focus on encouraging Partners to apply for travel plan assistance, and continue to travel to different counties throughout her territory to meet with School Partners.

### **North Georgia Territory – Elizabeth Jones, School Outreach Coordinator**

Elizabeth currently serves 105 School Partners in the North Georgia Territory.

Biking, Crossing Guards and Travel Plan Awards are the three highlight areas of the month for the North Georgia Region.

In November, Elizabeth attended the **Annual Georgia Bike Summit in Milledgeville**. A team of three SRTS staff including Elizabeth presented on how to plan a Bike Rodeo and provide bicycle education to children. The turnout for session was great! There were lots of questions and even more great ideas for how to improve upcoming Bike Rodeos in the upcoming year. Elizabeth made connections with local bike advocate groups who are interested in partnering in the future.



During November, Elizabeth was excited to see that so many schools took the time to thank Crossing Guards for their hard work and dedication to child pedestrian safety. During the **Crossing Guard Appreciation Week**, Elizabeth created a Facts and Tips Sheet for drivers, pedestrians and crossing guards, on how to make school zones safer for everyone. Elizabeth created small goodie bags including a notepad, GA SRTS bracelet, pen, thank you note and candy for the local crossing guards in Cobb County. The bags were a huge hit and the crossing guards really appreciated being recognized!



**Mountain View Elementary**, a North Georgia School Partner, was chosen for the SRTS Comprehensive Travel Plan. The school was voted 2014-2015 Partner of the Year and has been extremely active in the SRTS program, with monthly Walk to School Days. The kick-off meeting is scheduled for the beginning of December and the school will be well on its way to completing the travel plan in enough time to make an impact on adding bike and pedestrian friendly features to the new school, scheduled to open in the Fall of 2017.

Elizabeth looks forward to working with her school partners in the month of December, as they close out the calendar year and make plans for some amazing spring events after the holiday break!

### **Southwest Georgia Territory – Chelsea Carter, School Outreach Coordinator**

Chelsea currently serves 70 School Partners in the Southwest Georgia Territory.

Early in the month, Chelsea attended the **Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL) Conference**, hosting a booth to showcase SRTS to the attending principals and assistant principals. New contacts were made including LaShonda Gilbert at the **Vineville Academy of the Arts** in central Georgia.

In November, all schools were contacted to arrange Partner meetings and update Partner levels. Previously inactive Partners such as **Sunset Elementary** and **Stringfellow Elementary School**, both located in Moultrie, have had detailed meetings with Chelsea. These meetings included committee presentation proposals as well as student arrival observations for safety concerns and efficiency. Also located in Moultrie, GDOT SRTS infrastructure grant awardee **C. A. Gray Junior High School** continues to collect data as well as facilitate the program in their school after new sidewalks were constructed.

Travel Plan Assistance awardee **Jeff Davis Elementary School**, is hard at work gathering data and information for the upcoming Travel Plan meetings. The School Champion, Jill Yearty, has met with Chelsea almost weekly as the school is being informed of their selection and expectations to receive the assistance. **Heart of Georgia Regional Commission Planner**, James Pope plans to be a part of the school's committee and attend their meetings.

Also in November, Chelsea contacted all of her Regional Commissions to discuss their respective areas and progress in both SRTS and Teens in the Driver's Seat. From these meetings new prospective schools and events are being addressed. The **South Georgia Regional Commission** was approached by a Brooks County Commission with regard to safety concerns involving **Brooks County Schools**.

In December Chelsea will include meeting with local governments, as well as with long time prospects including **Hahira Elementary and Middle Schools**. Data collection will continue in multiple forms including Travel Tally Data, car counting, and student arrival and dismissal procedures.

### **Coastal Georgia Territory – Patti Sistrunk, School Outreach Coordinator**

Patti currently serves 44 School Partners in the Coastal Georgia Territory.

One new Partner signed on in the Coastal Region. **Tybee Island Maritime Academy** is the only school on Tybee Island in Chatham County. The island is a walkable and bike-friendly community with many bike routes, low speeds, and residences surrounding the school. About ten to 20 students walk or bike daily. There are approximately 250 children at the charter school. The **City of Tybee** is already a friend of the Resource Center and organized the meeting with Patti on November 20<sup>th</sup> in an effort to enhance the town's Bike Friendly Community application. Patti will be working with community partners to provide bicycle safety education.

Schools participated in Crossing Guard Appreciation Week throughout the Coastal Region. **West Chatham Elementary** recognized their crossing guards. The guards went above and beyond to help small children cross the busy intersection in front of the school by painting arrows for pedestrians.

Patti presented at the **Georgia Bike Summit** alongside Elizabeth and Corey. They shared youth bicycle safety education ideas with a group of about 18 attendees. In addition to explaining the GA SRTS Bicycle Rodeo Toolkit, the team talked about helpful bicycle safety books to read to children, shared helmet safety techniques, and key safety partners in Georgia such as Safe Kids coalitions and bicycle advocacy groups.

### **Travel Plan Assistance**

Travel Plan schools were selected in November. Information about those schools was provided to GDOT, and the SOC's began working with the schools to collect data and schedule meetings.

Two schools will receive full Travel Plan assistance.

**Mountain View Elementary**, Marietta  
**Jeff Davis Elementary**, Hazelhurst

One additional school will receive Safety Focus Report planning assistance:

**Kindezi Elementary School**, Atlanta

The Travel Plan map has been uploaded to the Georgia SRTS Resource Center website. The map is interactive and shows the locations of each Resource Center completed Travel Plan and Safety Focused Report. The map is available at <http://saferoutesga.org/content/completed-travel-plans-0>.

<http://www.saferoutesga.org/content/safe-routes-school-travel-plans-and-reports>.

### **Thirty Day Look Ahead**

The Outreach team will work with schools that have been selected for Travel Plan assistance, continue to work with the Regional Commission offices in planning a winter web conference meeting, and encourage pedestrian and bicycle education throughout December. The team will schedule pedestrian and bicycle safety education events and work with schools to promote Safe Routes programming.